

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~Computer apparatus~~ A web server for information retrieval, comprising:
 - a. a bus;
 - b. information storage accessible through the bus and containing stored information;
 - c. a ~~communications~~ network interface connected to the bus; and
 - d. a processor connected to said bus, said processor configured to receive search queries from a client over said ~~communications~~ network interface, to process the search queries against the stored information, and to provide a list of terms used in the search queries presented over a period of time, wherein the list of terms are selectively added to the stored information against which the search queries are processed.
2. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus~~ The web server of claim 1 in which a term to be selectively added is added to a document or file as a meta-tag.
3. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus~~ The web server of claim 2 in which a term to be selectively added is also added to an inverted index.

4. (Currently Amended) An information retrieval system, comprising:

- a. a network;
- b. a plurality of users connected to said network; and
- c. at least one web server connected to said network, said server containing stored items and the stored items in response to search queries submitted by the users, the server configured to provide a list of terms used in the search queries over a period of time, wherein the list of terms are selectively added to at least one of the stored items ~~which were used for the search~~, the at least one the stored items being selected by using a browser.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus~~ The system of claim 4 in which a term to be selectively added is added to a document or file as a meta-tag.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus~~ The system of claim 5 in which a term to be selectively added is also added to an inverted index.

7. (Currently Amended) A method of enhancing information retrieval in an information retrieval system, comprising:

- a. storing a list of queries submitted by a client to a search engine on a website;
- b. storing a list of search terms used in the queries together with frequency of occurrence;

c. selecting at least a portion of relatively high frequency search terms
; and

d. processing each search term of the portion and selectively adding
each search term to documents or files stored in the system as a meta-tag.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7 in which processing each term of said
portion comprises presenting the term to a user together with at least identifiers of a
number of documents or files stored in said system containing said term.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8 in which said processing includes
presenting the term to a user together with at least portions of a document identified by
one of said identifiers.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 in which said term is presented to a user
with portions of a document in a graphical user interface having a user activatable
function for adding a term to said document as a meta-tag.

11. (Original) The method of claim 7 further comprising the step of providing
an element for selectively adding said term to said document as a meta-tag.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11 further comprising the step of providing
an element for adding information about the term added to said document as a meta-tag
in an inverted index.

13. (Currently Amended) A method of enhancing information retrieval in an information retrieval system, comprising:

- a. storing a list of terms used in queries submitted by a client together with frequency of occurrence; and
- b. adding at least one term selected from the list based on frequency of occurrence to at least one document to be searched containing the term as a meta-tag and stored at a web server.

14. (Currently Amended) A method of enhancing information retrieval in an information retrieval system, comprising:

- a. generating a master term list of terms used in queries received by the information retrieval system over a period of time and that are submitted by a client;[[,]]
- b. generating a new term list of terms used in queries received by the information retrieval system during a later period of time which are not in the master term list[[,]] ; and
- c. adding, to documents stored at a web server containing the terms, the master term list and the new term list as a meta-tag.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14 in which at least one term selected from terms from said master term list is used to identify documents or files containing said term to which said term may be added as a meta-tag.

16. (Original) The method of claim 14 in which at least one term selected from terms from said master term list is used to identify only documents or files containing said term which have been created or modified since the last time the master term list was used to identify documents or files, to which said term may be added as a meta-tag.

17. (Original) The method of claim 15 in which said new term database is used to identify documents or files containing said term to which said term may be added as a meta-tag.

18. (Currently Amended) A method of enhancing information retrieval in an information retrieval system, comprising:

- a. sorting query terms submitted by a client and presented to the information retrieval system by frequency of occurrence to provide a term list;
 - b. eliminating noise words and stop words from the term list;
 - c. selecting a portion of the term list containing the highest frequency terms;
 - d. processing the highest frequency terms as candidates for inclusion in documents or files containing the terms as a meta-tag and stored at a web server;
- and
- e. adding the candidates to the documents or files containing the terms as a meta-tag.

19. (Currently Amended) A method of assisting a user in indexing a document created by the user, comprising:

- a. extracting terms used in search queries submitted by a client and presented to a search engine on a website over a period of time; [[and]]
- b. presenting the extracted terms to the user;
- c. receiving a user selection of terms using a browser; and
- d. adding the received terms to a document to be searched as a meta-tag and stored at a web server.

20. (Currently Amended) A method of enhancing information retrieval in a system containing stored documents, comprising:

- a. identifying a stored document stored at a web server containing a term submitted by a client;
- b. determining if the stored document contains subject matter related to the term; and
- c. selectively adding the term to the document containing subject matter related to the term as a meta-tag.

21. (Currently Amended) A method of operating an information retrieval system, comprising the steps of:

- a. extracting terms used in search queries submitted by a client over a period of time;
- b. identifying documents or files containing at least one of said terms and stored at a web server; and
- c. selectively adding said at least one of said terms to documents or files containing at least one of said terms as a meta-tag.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21 in which said meta-tag is given more weight than other terms when ranking relevance of documents retrieved in response to a search query.

23. (Currently Amended) A computer program product, comprising:

- a. a memory medium; and
- b. a computer program stored on the memory medium, the computer program comprising instructions for storing a list of terms used in queries together with frequency of occurrence and submitted by a client, and for adding at least one term selected from the list based on frequency of occurrence to at least one document containing the term as a meta-tag and stored at a web server.

24. (Currently Amended) A computer program product, comprising:

- a. a memory medium; and
- b. a computer program stored on the memory medium, the computer program comprising instructions for generating a master term list of terms used in

queries submitted by a client and received by an information retrieval system over a period of time, for generating a new term list of terms used in queries received by the information retrieval system during a later period of time which are not in the master term list, and adding the master term list and the new term list as a source of terms to documents containing the terms as a meta-tag and stored at a web server.

25. (Currently Amended) A computer program product, comprising:

- a. a memory medium; and
- b. a computer program stored on said memory medium, said computer program comprising instructions for extracting terms used in search queries submitted by a client and presented to a search engine on a website over a period of time, for presenting the extracted terms to the user, for receiving a user selection of terms, and for adding the received terms to a document to be searched as a meta-tag and stored at a web server.

26. (Currently Amended) A computer program product, comprising:

- a. a memory medium located in a web server; and
- b. a computer program stored on said memory medium, said computer program comprising instructions for extracting terms used in search queries by a client over a period of time, for identifying documents or files containing at least one of said terms and for selectively adding said at least one of said terms to said documents or files containing the at least one of said terms as a meta-tag.